

**From:** Terry, Lisa B.

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2017 3:06 PM

**Subject:** Resources For Veterans and Military Families - Aug 22

**Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,**

**Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have any events, programs, job opportunities, etc. that would benefit this group, please forward it to me. If these bulletins have benefited you, a colleague or family member, please share your story with me. You can find previous resource bulletins at [www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans) .**

***Employment Opportunities/Important Calendar Events***

- [Howard County Headstart Registration Open Now!](#)  
In addition to regular registration locations, Community Action Council will register PreK students on Tues and Wednesdays at the Multiservice Center at 9900 Washington Blvd in Laurel
  
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security Veterans-only Recruitment and Hiring Event - August 22-23, 8:30am - 4:00pm](#)  
Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008  
We are looking for veterans to fill more than a thousand positions in mission critical and mission support occupations across the Department, to include careers in:
  - ☐ Law Enforcement (Physical Security/Police Officer/Sector Enforcement/Investigations)
  - ☐ Business Operations (Human Resources/Program Analysis/Public Affairs)
  - ☐ Budget/Finance/Accounting/Contracting
  - ☐ Information Technology (Cybersecurity/Network)
  - ☐ Intelligence Analysis

We invite all veterans to *Continue Your Service to America* and come learn more about the Department, its missions and components. Candidates may also have the opportunity to talk to onsite recruiters/hiring managers and if qualified, interview for an open position.

There will be Veterans Workshops on “Finding and Applying for Federal Jobs” and “Building your Federal Resume,” as well as several “DHS Veterans Panel/Q&A Sessions” and information briefings on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Veteran candidates – bring your resume and veteran documents:

- ☐ Form DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- ☐ Statement of Service for transitioning service members still on active duty
- ☐ Standard Form-15, Application for 10-point Veteran Preference, if applicable
- ☐ Department of Veterans Affairs, Service Connected Disability Award Letter
- ☐ Transcripts, if applicable

*Attendees assume travel and accommodations expense.*

For more information contact [DHSVeteransHiring@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:DHSVeteransHiring@hq.dhs.gov) or visit [www.DHS.gov/careers](http://www.DHS.gov/careers)

- [Mentorship and the Military Spouse Networks Webinar –August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.](#)

Presented by: Diana Rau, CEO of Veterati and Jean South, Founder and CEO of Hired Served, Sponsored by Blue Star Famili

Join us for a powerful discussion about the value and importance of mentorship for veterans and military spouses. Learn how to get started and what to do once you get started!

About Veterati: Veterati offers service members and military spouses free 1-hour mentorship phone calls with successful professionals to take their resumes, personal brand, and personal career vision to the next level. About 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of Veterati's mentors are Veterans, 13% are senior executives, and 22% work at Fortune500 companies.

About Hire Served: Hire Served finds military veterans, spouses, and former law enforcement officers, and recruits them for your team. We ensure their purpose aligns with your organization's mission, so you can put their skills, learned on the front lines, to work for you. Partnering with Hire Served gives mission-driven employers a competitive advantage in recruiting, hiring, and onboarding top service-minded talent.

sponsored by Blue Star Families

- [The Dog Tag Inc. Fellowship Program](#) works in partnership with Georgetown University to offer a professional development program designed to prepare service-disabled veterans, military spouses and caregivers to find success as they transition into the civilian workforce. This five month program will assist in translating military experience to workplace skills and provide tools to prepare for interviews and apply for jobs. Dog Tag provides a unique opportunity in which participants will take courses in Business Administration to understand how management decisions are made while working within a small business environment. For those with entrepreneurial aspirations, they will have the foundation to plan for the next steps in their start-up success. Accepting applications now.
- [Veteran-owned business Opps in Downtown Columbia – Outreach event September 7, 2-4pm](#)  
The Howard Hughes Corporation invites you to attend an outreach event to encourage minority, women, local, disabled and veteran-owned business participation in the exciting redevelopment of Downtown Columbia. This event will provide information about future projects and highlight upcoming business opportunities in Downtown Columbia. Space Limited. Registration required.
- [Second Chance to Serve: Barriers to Employment - September 12, 2017 from 10am-3:00pm](#)  
Want interviews with employers that hire ex-offenders? Concerned about background checks but still want a job? Can you benefit from special employment resources? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, join us for presentations and interviews
- [Build A Dream Entrepreneurship Workshop – September 12-14, 5-8pm](#)  
A Veteran focused workshop taught by the Dept. of Small and Local Business Development. “Build a Dream” is a nine hour\* program for entrepreneurial ideas utilizing the Lean Canvas model. It is adapted from the Business Model canvas and replaces elaborate business plans with a single page business model. Focus is on business content, not presentation, which saves money for product testing.

Additionally, instructors will explain the DC business certification process and possible benefits of micro-loans available for a Veteran owned business

Limited to Veterans, Veteran Family Members and DC residents going into business with Veterans.

This nine hour workshop is conducted over three evenings (Sept 12, 13 and 14) from 5-8pm at 441 4th St NW in the DSLBD Workshop Suite# 805 South.

Sponsored by Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs. Registration required.

- [DC Small Business Boot Camp - September 25, 9am-5pm](#)

Are you a member of the military community (active duty, Veteran, National Guard or Reserves) or a military spouse? And are you thinking about starting, or have you recently started, a small business?

If you answered "yes" to both of these questions - then the DC Small Business Boot Camp is for you!

Before you register your business, create a website, go after funding, sign a lease or hire employees, you need to determine if your business idea is feasible. This one day intensive workshop is designed to introduce prospective entrepreneurs to the fundamentals of small business start-up and to help you determine the feasibility of your business idea. We will focus on your business concept, industry and market analysis, smallbusiness economics and financial forecasting - and introduce you to the resources to help you start and grow your business.

This is a non-selling event! Seating is limited to members of the military community who are interested in starting and growing their small business. Members of the service professions (CPAs, attorneys, real estate agents, financial representatives, etc.) who wish to do business with Veterans will not be admitted. Registration required.

- [Veteran and Non-Veteran Hiring Fair – December 8 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM](#)

American Job Center  
3637 Offutt Road, Randallstown, MD. 21133

- [Military Career Corps Connect](#) - Military Corps Career Connect, better known as C3, is Maryland-wide initiative focused on building career success for transitioning active duty service members, active duty spouses, and recently separated veterans. C3 is funded by a \$4.2 million US Department of Labor National Dislocated Workers Grant awarded to Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation. Sub-grantees include Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland,

Susquehanna Workforce Network, and the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

- [Project Opportunity](#) Registration for Fall now open - is a free entrepreneurship training program which has been designed solely for veterans who want to start or grow their own business. The program is an 10 week (30 hour) instructor lead intensive course designed to prepare participants to research and complete a business plan. Project Opportunity utilizes the NxLevel Curriculum which is a nationally recognized entrepreneurship training program and supplements the material with presentations by local subject matter experts in topics such as Marketing Plans, Cash Flow Analysis, the 5 C's of Credit, Commercial Insurance, Business Structure, Web Site Design, and procurement opportunities on the state and federal levels for veteran owned businesses.
- [Aloft and Element hotels](#) at Arundel Mills are hiring for various positions and we want your talent that is ready to provide exception service, be a team member and ready to build a career.
- [Jobs for MD veterans, MDVA Newsletter Aug 11](#)
- MD Job Network List of Open Jobs
- [Johns Hopkins Home Care Group](#) has several positions open in a variety of areas
- Employment opps for people with disabilities in Md and DC- [Chime](#)
- Probono Attorney Services Needed – [Probono Resource Center of MD](#)  
WEBCAST - [Representing Servicemembers in Discharge Upgrades](#)  
Training, employment and other opportunities available
- [Heroes Link](#) - is a web-enabled resource that gives Veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses access to personal, phone-based professional development mentoring with private sector professionals.
- **Senior Community Service Employment Program**  
Are you age 55 or older and have a low income?  
Explore the Senior Service America Program  
[Flier](#)  
For More Information Call: 301.578.8811
- **Administrative Analyst I-** Community Resources & Services, Office of Children and Families  
Closes Fri. 08/25/17 11:59 PM Eastern Time

\$23.33 - \$39.97 Hourly  
\$48,528.00 - \$83,129.00 Annually

Full Time

Office of Children and Families, 3300 North Ridge Road, Ellicott City, Maryland  
For a complete job description and information on how to apply, [click here](#)

- **HVAC and Refrigeration Service and Install Technician – Veterans Wanted**  
**Job Description**

Established company with great benefits and competitive pay is looking for experienced service technicians to perform service in the greater Baltimore and Washington DC area. Applicants must have experience with commercial refrigeration equipment and a hold a current journeyman or master license.

Join us and work for a family owned and operated company that achieves results through honesty, integrity and credibility. We are committed to providing outstanding quality and customer care while maintaining a professional, ethical and safe environment for our employees. We offer a competitive compensation and benefits plan including;

- An hourly pay rate commensurate with experience and skills
- Paid time off (sick, vacation, and holidays) with tenure
- Health and dental insurance
- Life insurance
- Short term disability insurance
- Company smart phone
- Company vehicle
- 401K after one year of employment

The following skills and attributes are required for this position;

- At least 2 years of verifiable experience servicing commercial refrigeration, heating and air conditioning equipment
- Competent in troubleshooting and servicing all types of commercial refrigeration equipment
- Ability to troubleshoot and diagnose all types of refrigeration, technical and wiring problems
- Outstanding customer service
- Must be responsible and on time
- Must be able to use smart phones, tablets and computers to complete work orders and diagnose equipment
- Maryland journeyman or master license
- CFC certification & bull; Available to work flexible hours and on-call shifts as needed
- A valid driver's license and acceptable driving record

- The ability to lift and carry 50 lbs. and climb ladders without difficulty
- The ability to work on equipment in extreme conditions of heat and cold
- The ability to complete paperwork neatly and accurately
- The ability to perform all assigned duties with reasonable accommodations
- Must have excellent communication skills
- Must pass background and drug tests
- Location: Baltimore and DC
- Compensation: Competitive hourly rates depending on experience, tenure and performance

Job Type: Full-time

**HVAC and Refrigeration Maintenance Technicians** – no job description but ideal candidate would have some experience with preventative maintenance performed on all types of refrigeration and HVAC equipment.

Send resume to:

Lorena Wackford, Office Manager, Chill-Craft Company Inc.

Office: 410-768-2257 x104

[www.Chill-Craft.com](http://www.Chill-Craft.com)

[lorena@chill-craft.com](mailto:lorena@chill-craft.com)

- [Sr. Heavy Equipment Mechanics Wanted!](#)  
Waste Management is still looking for Sr. Heavy Equipment Mechanics in Jessup, MD, and offering a \$4000 Sign on bonus!
- We have found that veterans are a great fit in our organization – in fact, one in twelve of our employees are former military. We encourage any and all qualified veteran's to apply online at [www.jobs.wm.com](http://www.jobs.wm.com).
- Waste Management has been recognized as Best Employer of Veterans, by the following..  
  
Military Times Top 50 "Best for Vets Employer"  
G.I. Jobs Top 100 "Military Friendly Employer"  
CivilianJobs.com "Most Valuable Employer-Military"
- [National Guard Employment Network](#) - The National Guard Employment Network (NGEN) mission is to provide a network for service members and their families to connect directly with employment resources, service providers and employers.
- [Careerkey.org](http://Careerkey.org) - Professional help in making career and educational choices -- affordable to all. Our website gives you expert help with career choices -- career changes, career planning, job skills, and choosing a college major or educational program. It is based on the best science and practices of career counseling . . . and the most complete and accurate information available.

## ***Health and Wellness***

- **Dept of VA/DOD Resource Fair – August 30 from 10am-2pm at Fort Meade Main Exchange**

The purpose of this event is to empower, engage and educate the Ft. Meade Service members and Veteran communities, to include family members, as well as others, about VA Health Care, Benefits, and Services for which they may be entitled, while either still on Active Duty, Reserve, Guard Status or when they become Veterans.

Representatives from the following organizations will be available to provide information and answer questions:

Veterans Health Care: Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center & Baltimore MD, VA Medical Center, Transition Care Management Teams

Readjustment Counseling Services (Vet Centers)

Veterans Benefits: Disability Compensation, Education Service, (9/11 G.I. Bill), Specially Adaptive Housing/Loan Guaranty, and eBenefits

Veterans Rehabilitation & Employment, Outreach Engagement

National Cemetery Administration; Burial and Memorial benefits

Veterans Employment Services Office

Center for Minority Veterans

Veterans Information Health Exchange

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Army Wounded Warrior (AW2)

Military Corps Career Connect (C3)

Department of Labor representative will be available regarding Veterans Employment Training Services (VETS).

For more information, email [Barry.Warken@va.gov](mailto:Barry.Warken@va.gov).



- [Dental Screening Fair – Sept 9](#), 10am-3pm in Laurel MD – Veterans without dental coverage encouraged to attend
- [Grassroots Annual Suicide Prevention Symposium – Sept 15](#), 11am- 4:15pm  
Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City

- [Howard County Out of the Darkness Community Walk - October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm](#)

Walk Location: Lake Elkhorn - Columbia, MD

Check-in/Registration Time: 10/08/2017 at 11:00 am

For more information, please contact:

Contact Name: Becca Niburg, 336-209-1998 or [howardcountyoofd@gmail.com](mailto:howardcountyoofd@gmail.com)

Online registration closes at noon (local time) the Friday before the walk. However, anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Walk donations are accepted until December 31st.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

- [Bright Minds Foundation \(Howard County Public Schools Education Foundation\) Golf Tournament – Oct 4 at Waverly Wood Golf Course](#)

Please register to golf or to be a sponsor to support our future workforce. Bright Minds provides home computers to disadvantaged youth and teacher grants to fund innovative classroom ideas!

- **Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Association – Oct 21, 4-6pm**

Help us raise money and awareness for the Alzheimer's Association this year! Alzheimer's disease is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States today. At Visiting Angels, we have decided to get moving to stop it, and we are asking you to join us! All proceeds from the event will go directly to the Alzheimer's Association.

Make sure to mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information coming soon about the event. Please let us know if you would like to participate or be a lane sponsor!

Brunswick Zone Normandy  
4319 Baltimore National Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

- [The National Military Family Association](#) - NMFA, "The Voice for Military Families," is dedicated to providing information to and representing the interests

of Family members of the uniformed services. In addition to information on deployment, education, Family life and health care, NMFA provides valuable links to other useful sites designed to give you the latest information available. They have a “Back to School” section which includes many links to valuable information on education for students and parents.

- [VA Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence in Baltimore](#) Fact Sheet
- [Veterans Yoga Project](#) – Yoga classes in Baltimore and DC, resources, healing retreats and more
- [Warriors At Ease](#) - Our mission is to increase awareness about the power of yoga and meditation and educate a network of professionals qualified to share evidenced-based practices through programs that support the health and healing of service members, veterans and their families.
- [Vetoga Maryland](#) - provides yoga, meditation, and healing arts to military, veterans, their families, and communities. We accomplish this by holding free monthly yoga classes, events, and veteran specific 200-Hour Teacher Trainings throughout the year
- [MD Dept of Natural Resources](#) – park discounts, free hunting license for 100% disabled veterans and so much more!
- [Visiting Angels](#) – provides care for seniors and adults in Howard, Carroll and Baltimore County
- [Hearing Loss of America Baltimore Chapter](#) - The Mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.
- [Vets Prevail](#) - is a personalized and confidential behavior change platform where Veterans earn rewards for helping each other to discover issues and overcome their challenges. We surround Veterans with engaging and effective lessons, innovative tools and anonymous support from fellow Vets in various stages of their transition to civilian life. Prevail's model is backed by our own clinical trial and built on a tech-enabled platform developed in partnership with the National Science Foundation.
- [The Thrive Center](#) for For ADHD & Comprehensive Mental Health Care Of Central Maryland (located in Columbia, MD) - provides a full array of diagnostic and treatment services to meet a wide range of mental health needs. These services can be accessed singly, or combined into more intensive programs for

more complex challenges. In keeping with our philosophy of providing comprehensive care throughout the life cycle, all of our services available for kids, adolescents and adults. Failure to Launch Young Adults Parent Support Group and many others.

- [Center for Creative Life and Learning](#) - mission to enable individuals and families to move from poverty and homelessness to economic independence, self sufficiency, employment and permanent housing. Our primary focus is women and children with the goal to help them rebuild their lives.
- [The Choice Program](#) - is a community-based, family-centered case management approach to delinquency prevention and youth development. Focusing on providing support in at-risk environments, The Choice Program empowers youth and engages families through a multitude of services adapted to individual needs. The program seeks to foster resiliency in young people by promoting protective factors to mitigate risk in their daily lives.
- [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) - Designed to help with life's issues. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year you can access information.
- [Military Impacted Schools Association](http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/) - Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) is a national organization representing school districts that serve high concentrations of military children. The organization works to provide a continuum of quality education for all military children. MISA works on funding (Impact Aid) legislation, partnerships, and programs for military families.  
<http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/>
- **Military Teens on the Move** - [www.defenselink.mil/mtom](http://www.defenselink.mil/mtom)  
Military Teens on the Move / Military Teens on the Move for Kids is a site designed with military youth in mind and covers topics sorted by age level to include deployment and moving to a new *location*.
- **Student Online Achievement Resources** - [www.soarathome.org](http://www.soarathome.org)  
SOAR is an innovative program that makes it easy for parents to play an active role in their children's education. SOAR is designed for military families, and is easily accessible worldwide. Students take an assessment aligned to state standards, and SOAR directs them to individualized tutorials to improve skills where needed.
- **Military Kids Connect** - <https://www.militarykidsconnect.org/>  
Military Kids Connect was created by DOD in conjunction with Technology & Telehealth as a site for military children age 6-17 to connect with other military kids. Site is broken down into 3 age groups with videos, games, and activities that are age appropriate. Included is an interactive world map to learn about countries with frequent US

deployments and allows kids to see the weather and time at these locations. An educator's resource section is also available.

- **Families in Transition** - 603-641-9441 • [www.fitnh.org](http://www.fitnh.org)  
Offers counseling services for women, adolescents, men, and families.
- **AfterDeployment.org** - 1-866-966-1020 • [Resources@DCoEOutreach.org](mailto:Resources@DCoEOutreach.org)  
Behavioral Health resource supporting service members, their families and veterans with common post-deployment challenges. Provide selfcare solutions targeting post-traumatic stress, depression, and other behavioral health challenges. Chat online with consultants.
- **Family Services Inc.** - 301-840-2000 • [www.familyservicesagency.org](http://www.familyservicesagency.org)  
Behavioral health, education, family and community programs.
- **Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program** - 1-866-504-7092 • [YRRP@osd.mil](mailto:YRRP@osd.mil)  
The Yellow Ribbon Program is a veteran's reintegration program to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families with sufficient information, services, referral, and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle. Members and their families should contact the person within their unit responsible for the program.
- **Operation Military Kids** - 301-405-2833 • [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org)  
Collaborates with groups across the state to provide sustainable local support services to military youth before, during and after their families are deployed.
- **Coaching Into Care** - 1-888-823-7458 • [www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/](http://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/)  
Coaching into Care provides assistance to family members and friends trying to encourage their Veteran to seek health care for possible readjustment and mental health issues.
- **Give An Hour** - [www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org) • [info@giveanhour.org](mailto:info@giveanhour.org)  
Provides free mental health services for individuals who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families.
- **Pro Bono Counseling** - 410-825-1001 • 877-323-5800 • [www.probonocounseling.org](http://www.probonocounseling.org)  
Offers counseling services to service members and their families. Clinicians are trained on the unique needs of the military culture.
- **Silver Spring Vet Center** - 301-589-1073  
Provides substance abuse assessment, treatment and referral, assistance to homeless, bereavement counseling for survivors of deceased active duty members, employment assistance, referrals for individual and group counseling, PTSD assessment, treatment, and referral, referral for benefits & medical services, sexual trauma counseling

- [Hidden Heroes](#) – military caregiver support thru the Elizabeth Dole Foundation
- [The Gerontological Society of America](#) (GSA) is now offering a [free online toolkit](#) to aid primary care providers in achieving greater awareness of cognition in their older adult patients, increasing detection of cognitive impairment, securing earlier diagnostic evaluation, and referring to community services.

Contents of the toolkit include tips for communicating with older adults about brain health, clinically relevant and scientifically supported measurement instruments for detecting cognitive impairment, links to clinical practice guidelines for conducting diagnostic evaluations for dementia, and comprehensive listings of community resources that are available to help older adults and families living with the daily challenges of cognitive impairment and diagnosed dementia.

- [Easter Seals Veteran and Military Resources](#)
- [FOCUS World](#) - is an interactive, online educational tool that helps military families become stronger in the face of challenges by providing both parents and kids a fun place to learn and practice important skills, such as: Emotional Regulation – understanding and managing feelings; Goal Setting – working together as a family to achieve something important to you; Communication - listening and responding to each other's concerns, including those related to deployment and reintegration
- 

## **Education**

- [STOMP](#) is the only National Parent Training and Information Center for military families providing support and advice to military families with individuals with disabilities without regard of the type of medical condition their child has.
- [The Council for Exceptional Children \(CEC\)](#) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or gifts and talents. CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, advocates for individuals with exceptionalities, and helps professionals obtain conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.
- [Learning Disabilities Online](#) is the leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD. Parents and teachers of learning disabled children will find helpful articles, multimedia, expert articles, a comprehensive resource guide, and a referral directory for professionals and schools.

- [NECTAC](#) is the national early childhood technical assistance center supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. NECTAC serves all 50 states and 10 jurisdictions with an array of services and supports to improve service systems and outcomes for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with special needs and their families

*College Resources, Scholarships & Financial Aid*

- [College and financial aid advice](#), interactive financial aid calculator, scholarship search.
- [The Scholarships for Military Children Program](#) was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community.
- [Navy Marine Corps Relief Society \(NMCRS\)](#) - is a private non-profit charitable organization providing financial, educational and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States. Click on education programs.
- Information on the [Post 911 GI Bill](#) is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- [Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation](#) honors Marines by educating their children through scholarships. Information including eligibility, registration dates/deadlines, and applications can be found on this site.
- **Department of Defense Education Activity - 703-588-3272 •**  
[www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/](http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/)  
The Department of Defense Educational Partnership Directorate has launched a new website focused on providing information that directly connected school systems.
- **DoDEA Partnership: Students At The Center -**  
<http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/studentsAtTheCenter/>  
Interactive educational resource for military families, military leaders and school leaders. The resource, "Students at the Center," provides information on important policies, procedures, and best practices that are critical to supporting the needs of military families' education.
- **DoDEA Partnership: Be Here Toolkit (Attendance Initiative) -**  
<http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu/behere.cfm>  
Information on the importance of school attendance with resources for schools and teachers, parents and students, as well as military leaders.
- [United Through Reading](#) – have your deployed service member record a book for their child. For a location near you, email [military@utr.org](mailto:military@utr.org)

- **Forever GI Bill** - President Trump has just put his signature on a new law that will bring significant changes to education benefits for service members, veterans and their families. The legislation known as the “Forever GI Bill” garnered strong bipartisan support in Congress, passing unanimously in both the [House](#) and [Senate](#). “Today our commitment to support and care for the men and women who have served our great nation has been reinforced with the signing of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017,” Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chair of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said in a statement. “This legislation will enable veterans to use the education benefits they’ve earned through the GI Bill when and how it suits them best, setting them up for future success in whatever career they pursue. “Our student veterans are some of the very best of this country,” he added, “and I’m proud we can support them with this new law.”

Here are 10 things you should know about the new GI Bill benefits.

**1. There’s no longer an expiration date.**

Previously, veterans had to use their Post-9/11 GI Bill within 15 years of their last 90-day period of active-duty service. [That requirement is going away](#). This portion of the law will apply to anyone who left the military after January 1, 2013. It will also apply to spouses who are receiving education benefits through the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship for family members of service members who have been killed in the line of duty since Sept. 10, 2001.

**2. Purple Heart recipients will get more benefits.**

The new GI Bill allows anyone who has received a Purple Heart on or after Sept. 11, 2001 to receive 100 percent of the benefits offered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which includes coverage of tuition costs at a public school’s in-state rate for 36 months and stipends for textbooks and housing. Previously, Purple Heart recipients were beholden to the same time-in-service qualifications for the GI Bill as other service members. This meant that Purple Heart recipients without a service-connected disability who did not reach 36 months of service were only eligible for a percentage of the benefits and not the full amount. Aleks Morosky, national legislative director for Military Order of the Purple Heart, said there have been 52,598 Purple Heart recipients who were wounded in action during post-9/11 conflicts, though it’s unclear how many would immediately benefit from this provision. An estimated 660 Purple Heart recipients each year over the next 10 years will be able to take advantage of the increased benefits. “We think that anybody who has shed blood for this country has met the service requirement by virtue of that fact,” Morosky said. “Everybody sacrifices, everybody puts themselves in harm’s way, but Purple Heart recipients are certainly among the service members who have sacrificed the most.”

This provision will go into effect in August 2018.

**3. More people are eligible for Yellow Ribbon.**

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a voluntary agreement between schools and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to split school costs not covered by the GI Bill, reducing or eliminating the amount students must pay themselves. The Forever GI Bill will expand eligibility for this program to surviving spouses or



children of service members in August 2018 and active-duty service members in August 2022. Previously, only veterans eligible for GI Bill benefits at the 100 percent level or their dependents using transferred benefits were eligible for Yellow Ribbon.

#### **4. There's some extra money — and time — for STEM degrees.**

Some college degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields take longer than four years to complete, which is why the new law authorizes an additional school year of GI Bill funds on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Scholarships of up to \$30,000 will be available for eligible GI Bill users starting in August 2018. Only veterans or surviving family members of deceased service members are eligible for this scholarship — not dependents using transferred benefits.

#### **5. Vets hurt by school shutdowns will get benefits back.**

A provision in the new GI Bill that will [restore benefits to victims of school closures](#) has been a long-time coming for the staff at Student Veterans of America. “We’ve been getting calls for several years now, beginning with the collapse of Corinthian (Colleges), from student veterans whose lives were put on hold,” said Will Hubbard, vice president of government affairs for the nonprofit, which has more than 500,000 student members. “Every day we wasted until it passed was another day that they had to wait.” This provision will retroactively apply to GI Bill users whose schools have abruptly closed since January 2015, for credits earned at the shuttered institutions that did not transfer to new schools. This will include the thousands of veteran students who were attending the national for-profit chains Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute when they closed in 2015 and 2016, respectively. It would also provide a semester’s worth of reimbursement for GI Bill users affected by future school closures, as well as up to four months of a housing stipend.

#### **6. The VA will measure eligibility for benefits differently.**

Starting August 2018, this bill changes the way the VA uses time in service to calculate eligibility.

Previously, service members with at least 90 days but less than six months of active-duty service would be eligible for up to 40 percent of the full GI Bill benefits. Under new regulations, the same 90-days-to-six-month window is equal to 50 percent of benefits. Service members with at least six months and less than 18 months of service will be eligible for 60 percent of benefits.

This change will tend to benefit reservists more due to the nature of their service, according to a spokeswoman for the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

#### **7. Reservists can count more of their service toward eligibility.**

Starting next August, members of the National Guard and Reserve will be able to count time spent receiving medical care or recovering from injuries received while on active duty toward their GI Bill eligibility. This will apply to all who have been activated since 9/11.

The Forever GI Bill also allows individuals who lost their Reserve Educational Assistance Program when the program ended in 2015 to credit their previous service toward their eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

#### **8. Housing stipends will decrease slightly.**



The government will pay for the expansions represented in the Forever GI Bill through a 1 percent decrease in housing stipends over the next five years. This will bring veterans' housing stipends on par with what active-duty service members receive at the E-5 with dependents rate. (Veterans on the GI Bill currently receive a slightly higher housing allowance rate than active-duty E-5s with dependents.) This change will take effect on Jan. 1, 2018 and will only apply to service members who enroll in GI Bill benefits after that date. No one currently receiving a housing stipend from the VA will see a reduction in benefits.

"On a month-to-month basis, they would never see less money," said SVA's Hubbard, explaining that the 1 percent reduction will come off of the total the VA would have spent over five years.

Starting in August 2018, housing stipends previously calculated based on the ZIP code of a student's school will be based on where a student takes the most classes.

Also in August 2018, reservists will continue to receive their monthly housing allowance under the GI Bill on a prorated rate for any month during which they are activated, preventing them from losing a whole month's worth of funds.

#### **9. Benefits can get transferred after death.**

A provision of the new GI Bill offers more flexibility with the transfer and distribution of benefits in case of death.

If a dependent who received transferred benefits dies before using all of the benefits, this provision gives the service member or veteran the ability to transfer remaining benefits to another dependent. This will go into effect August 2018 and apply to all deaths since 2009.

This provision also gives dependents of deceased service members the ability to make changes to their deceased loved one's transferred benefits.

Ashlynn Haycock, senior coordinator of education support services for the nonprofit Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, explains that currently, only a service member has the authority to make changes to the benefits they'd like to transfer. So, if a service member dies after transferring 35 months of benefits to one child and one month of benefits to another, for example, the family would not be able to make future changes to the GI Bill's distribution among that service member's dependents.

#### **10. Surviving family members will get more money, but less time.**

Besides access to Yellow Ribbon, spouses and children of service members who died in the line of duty on or after 9/11 will also see their monthly education stipend from the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program increase by \$200.

There's a downside, however. Though the same program has previously provided 45 months of education benefits, that will decrease to 36 months in August 2018 to bring it in line with the provisions of the GI Bill.

#### **11. School certifying officials must be trained.**

Individuals who certify veteran student enrollment at schools with more than 20 veteran students will be required to undergo training. Previously, training was not mandatory.

### **Newsletters/Other Resources**

- [VFW Action Corps Weekly](#)
- [Howard County Veterans Foundation](#) - Please consider donating to the future Howard County Veterans Monument on the Columbia Lakefront
- [The Veterans History Project \(VHP\)](#) of the **Library of Congress American Folklife Center** is primarily an oral history program that collects and preserves the firsthand interviews of America's wartime veterans. VHP relies on volunteers, both individuals and organizations, throughout the nation to contribute veterans' stories to VHP. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, VHP accepts memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts.

The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs will be conducting VHP interviews every week. If you are a veteran - we would love to hear your story! Once your interview is complete, we will submit the recording to the Library of Congress for preservation. Please give us a call at 202-724-5454 to schedule an interview

- [Click Here To Signup](#) For News From The Mayor's Office Of Veterans Affairs, 202-724-5454, [www.oVa.dc.gov](http://www.oVa.dc.gov)
- [Monroe Homes: Helping to House Veterans](#) - The philosophy of Monroe Homes, Inc. is to provide veteran families with safe housing with wrap around services for long-term success. The vision of Monroe Homes, Inc. is to provide an option for these families and individuals to move into homes in the community and become active and productive members of society. If you would like to donate, partner or learn more, visit their website.
- [HELP Veterans Village](#) - will open 75 apartments through a combination of renovations and new constructions to house veterans at risk of homelessness in the coming years. [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Guard and Reserve Support Network Newsletters](#)
- [50+ Connection](#) – Aug Newsletter for Howard County
- [Just Serve](#) – volunteer opportunities in Howard County
- [Care package donation websites](#) - send a deployed service member a care package, baked goods and more.

- **VA Claims, Pensions, and DD-214 Upgrades – Aug 24 from 9am-2pm**  
The Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs will be hosting an accredited Veteran Service Officer from the American Legion to provide claims, benefits, pension, and DD-214 upgrade counseling. If you have questions - trust us - this guy has the answers! Give us a call at 202-724-5454 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome! Please note, scheduled appointments will be seen before walk-ins.

- [Military Family Appreciation Day at the National Portrait Gallery – Aug 26, 11am-1:30pm](#)

National Portrait Gallery  
8th St. NW & F St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001

In partnership with Blue Star Families. Registration will allow you access to the museum at 11 a.m. for a private BSF Concert with By And By!

[Childcare Subsidy Info Session](#) – Aug  
29, 1:30-3:30pm Miller Branch Library in  
Ellicott City

- [Grant Opportunity: 2017 Military and Veterans Appreciation Trust \(MVAT\) Foundation](#) - Application Due Sept 1

Due Date: 09/01/2017 (Application)

Actual Funds: Unspecified

Eligibility: 501(c)(3) community veteran service organizations

Summary: ... The purpose of this program is to assist and honor those who have protected and currently protect the freedoms that all Americans enjoy. The funding agency's mission is to provide veterans and their families with a range of services spanning the spectrum of needs....

- **Army Fee Assistance Program (AFA)** - The GSA has transitioned administration of the Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program to Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA). If you wish to enroll your family in the program, check available providers, or enroll as a provider, please visit the [CCAoA website](#). You may also contact CCAoA by email at [mnp@usa.childcareaware.org](mailto:mnp@usa.childcareaware.org) or call them at [1-800-424-2246](tel:1-800-424-2246).

**Programs of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. General Services**

**Administration** - Effective October 1, 2016, responsibility for these programs was transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Enrolled child care providers and those wishing to enroll may visit USDA's main page for the [Child Care Subsidy Program Administration](#). Until informed by USDA of a change, you may continue to use the same phone number to contact USDA: [\(866\) 508-0371](#) and fax (816) 823-5410. For family assistance press 1 (providers press 2) and then 2 for the U.S. Coast Guard and 3 for the U.S. GSA, U.S. NPS or U.S. C&BP. You may also continue to submit invoices to USDA in the GSA format until notified by USDA of a change.

Additional USDA contact information is as follows:

- [Child Care Providers](#)
  - Email: [childcareprovider@gsa.gov](mailto:childcareprovider@gsa.gov)
- [General Services Administration \(GSA\) Child Care Subsidy Program](#)
  - Email: [childcare@gsa.gov](mailto:childcare@gsa.gov)
- [National Park Service \(NPS\) Child Care Subsidy Program](#)
  - Email: [npschildcare@gsa.gov](mailto:npschildcare@gsa.gov)
- [U.S. Coast Guard \(USCG\) Child Care Subsidy Program](#)
  - Email: [uscgchildcare@gsa.gov](mailto:uscgchildcare@gsa.gov)
  - Fax: (816) 823-5445
  - Email for Invoices: [uscginvoices.childcare@gsa.gov](mailto:uscginvoices.childcare@gsa.gov)
  - Fax for Invoices: (866) 823-5498
- [U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(USCBP\) Child Care Subsidy Program](#)
  - Email: [cbp.childcare@gsa.gov](mailto:cbp.childcare@gsa.gov)
  - Fax: (816) 823-5482

*The Dept. of Community Resources and Services Office of Veterans and Military Families (DCRS/OVMF) does not endorse the organizations sponsoring these events, the views they express or the products/services they offer. The information serves as a DCRS/OVMF community outreach effort. If you wish to unsubscribe, please email [lbterry@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:lbterry@howardcountymd.gov)*

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***The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.***

***The Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families (OVMF) provides guidance, information and access to the more than 20,000 veterans who live in Howard County, as well as their dependents and survivors, and military families. The OVMF also promotes activities for veterans of all ages and collaborates with other service providers to address more complex issues.***

**Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families** <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/vetcomm>

**Department of Community Resources and Services Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/HoCoCommunity/>

**Commission for Veterans and Military Families Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/HocoMilitary/>

#### **Reserved Veteran Parking Initiative**

Honor veterans living and working in Howard County by installing a Reserved Veteran Parking sign at your place of business or in honor of a loved one.

[http://www.howardchamber.com/chamber\\_information/veteran\\_parking\\_sign\\_initiative.aspx](http://www.howardchamber.com/chamber_information/veteran_parking_sign_initiative.aspx)